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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

USAID program helps bring SEEU from concept to state-of-the-art University

Students from Macedonia and the region are benefiting from improved quality higher education at the South East European University (SEEU) thanks to USAID's Higher Education Linkage Project (HELP). The project, started in 2001 when SEEU was first established, has been a partnership between USAID, Indiana University, and SEEU. The HELP project has been instrumental in helping the new university grow from a concept to a state-of-the-art university with 7000 students in only six years.

"The story of SEEU - and its rise to become a role model for other universities in the region - is one of which we should all be proud," said U.S. Ambassador Gillian Milovanovic.

The HELP project strengthened the institutional capacities of the university, improved the academic standards and teaching capacities of Business Administration (BA) and Communication Science and Technology (CST) Faculties, and introduced the first distance education center in Macedonia, including a state of the art multimedia lab. In addition, nine Master's degree fellowships were awarded for students to attend Indiana University.

"I wish to personally thank the US Embassy and USAID for helping make us what we truly are, one of the best Universities in the region," stated SEEU Rector Abazi.

A Business Development Center, Instructional Support Center, and Career Services Center were created through this project to strengthen the performance of instructors and students and to create strong ties with the domestic and international business community. Each of these centers developed a portfolio with dynamic activities, mainly focused on human capacity development. In addition, the Centers collaborated to create a new curriculum for a three-year program for BA in accordance with the Bologna Agreement.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. Over 25 projects worth more than \$25 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic

and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>